



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

September 6, 2012

Mr. Michael Munson
Custodian of Records
Webster Police Department
217 Pennsylvania Avenue
Webster, Texas 77598

OR2012-14136

Dear Mr. Munson:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 464476.

The Webster Police Department (the "department") received a request for dash cam videos related to a specified incident. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the requestor seeks only the dash cam videos related to the specified incident. Thus, the submitted police report is not responsive to the present request for information. This ruling does not address the public availability of non-responsive information, and the department need not release such information in response to this request.

Section 552.108 of the Government Code provides, in pertinent part:

(a) Information held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime is excepted from [required public disclosure] if:

(1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime; [or]

(2) it is information that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime only in relation to an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication[.]

Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1)-(2). Generally speaking, subsection 552.108(a)(1) is mutually exclusive of subsection 552.108(a)(2). Subsection 552.108(a)(1) protects information, the release of which would interfere with a pending criminal investigation or prosecution. In contrast, subsection 552.108(a)(2) protects information that relates to a concluded criminal investigation or prosecution that did not result in a conviction or deferred adjudication. Generally, a governmental body claiming section 552.108 must reasonably show the exception is applicable to the requested information by explaining how and why the release of the requested information would interfere with law enforcement. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state, and provide documentation showing, the submitted information pertains to a case that is pending prosecution with the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Accordingly, based on your representations, we understand you to argue the applicability of section 552.108(a)(1). Thus, we conclude the release of the information at issue would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). Therefore, the department may withhold the submitted dash cam videos under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Kristi L. Wilkins
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KLW/ag

Ref: ID# 464476

Enc. Submitted documents

**c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)**